



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 66

FORMULATED: March 2015

QUESTION: Is it within the scope of practice of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who holds Prescriptive Authority to use Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) as a treatment option for the management of sexually transmitted infections as endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention?

Laws Governing Nursing in South Carolina permits APRNs with prescriptive authority to prescribe medications.

SECTION 40-33-20 (5) defines an "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" or "APRN" as a registered nurse who is prepared for an advanced practice registered nursing role by virtue of additional knowledge and skills gained through an advanced formal education program of nursing in a specialty area that is approved by the board.

(23) "Delegated medical acts" means additional acts delegated by a physician or dentist to the NP, CNM, or CNS and may include formulating a medical diagnosis and initiating, continuing, and modifying therapies, including prescribing drug therapy, under approved written protocols as provided in Section 40-33-34.

SECTION 40-33-34 (F)(1) indicates authorized prescriptions by a nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or clinical nurse specialist with prescriptive authority: (a) must comply with all applicable state and federal laws; (b) is limited to drugs and devices utilized to treat common well-defined medical problems within the specialty field of the nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist, as authorized.

EPT is the treatment of partners of patients diagnosed with Chlamydia or Gonorrhea by providing a prescription to the partners without a provider examination or a provider – patient relationship.

In accordance with such legislation, because EPT involves providing treatment to partners who have not been examined nor have a patient – provider relationship, the South Carolina Board of Nursing does not endorse the use of EPT as a treatment option for APRNs who hold prescriptive authority for the management of select sexually transmitted infections as listed in approved written protocols.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe legal nursing practice.